

# Department of Human Services

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## Articles in Today's Clips Tuesday, January 8, 2008

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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## WAYNE COUNTY

### Murder-case jury choice starts

Foster mom of 2-year-old to be tried

January 8, 2008

BY CECIL ANGEL

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

At Wayne County Circuit Court on Monday, Ken Newman was a happy man as jury selection for the trial of Carol Ann Poole, the woman accused in the death of his 2-year-old granddaughter Allison Newman, was getting under way.

He said he wants a jury to hear the evidence in what Poole, the girl's foster mother, has described as an accidental death.

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"I thought they were going to plea-bargain this thing down," said Newman, 54, of Westland. "I'm just glad a jury is going to decide this case."

Poole, 42, of Canton has been charged with felony murder, involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in the Sept. 22, 2006, death of Allison. Jury selection began Monday in the trial that Judge Ulysses W. Boykin said likely would last into next week.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Dorsey IV read 25 names on his witness list. Poole's lawyer, Mark Satawa, read the names of 35 people on his list.

Boykin also granted Dorsey's motion to have the jury visit the Poole home in the 2600 block of Emily Court. The jurors will see Allison's room, the upstairs bathrooms and a second-floor bannister.

Allison died of head injuries sustained Sept. 21, 2006. According to police, Poole gave four accounts of how the child was injured, including a fall from a bathroom vanity into a bathtub and playing a game Poole called whirly bird on the second-floor balcony of the home.

Poole said she became dizzy and lost her grip on the child, who flew over the railing to the floor 12 feet below.

Despite the child's injuries, Poole waited four hours before calling 911 at 2 a.m. Sept. 22, according to authorities.

"This has literally destroyed my life, my wife's life," Ken Newman said. "There was no sense in this happening, no sense whatsoever."

Jury selection is to resume this morning.

Contact **CECIL ANGEL** at 313-223-4531 or [angel@freepress.com](mailto:angel@freepress.com).

Find this article at:

<http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=WAYNE+COUNTY%3A+Murder-case+jur...> 1/8/2008

Detroit Free Press

January 8, 2007

**Trial date is set in case  
of girl found in filth**

Oakland County Family Court Judge Linda Hallmark has set a Feb. 5 trial to determine if a Southfield mother should maintain custody of her child found in a filthy home in November.

Oakland County prosecutors have sought to sever Stephanie Cooper's custody rights after investigators visited the home where the girl's grandmother died on Nov. 6.

At a hearing Thursday, Hallmark allowed the child to continue living with a relative.

*Compiled by Bill Laitner, Frank Witsil, Korie Wilkins and John Wisely.*

# New foster parent law good for kids

*The following is the [Jackson Citizen Patriot's](#) editorial for January 8:*

The start of a new year is bringing a little more scrutiny for Michigan's foster families.

A law that took effect Jan. 1 will subject current and prospective foster parents to national criminal-background checks. The state can't afford to discourage foster parents, but steps like these are valuable to protect children's welfare.

The new safeguard adds to precautions that Michigan already takes. Foster parents undergo statewide background checks and are banned from caring for children if they've been convicted of various crimes.

The law now extends that to reject adults if they've been guilty of crimes against children in other states, not just Michigan.

Nothing suggests this will be a major change to Michigan's foster-care system. It wouldn't have prevented the sad death of Ricky Holland, whose adoptive parents didn't have criminal records.

Still, it might weed out a bad apple or two. And the principle behind the law is unassailable: If you want to do the honorable job of caring for a foster child, at least you should have a clean record.

*-- Jackson Citizen Patriot*



**ourMidland.com**  
from the Midland Daily News

01/08/2008

## Student charged in connection to bomb threat

By [Kelly Dame](#)

A 15-year-old boy is in the Midland County Juvenile Care Center on a charge that he phoned in a bomb threat to a local high school last month.

The boy has been charged with the felony of making a false report or threat of a bomb, said Assistant Prosecutor Michael Garner. The threat was made about 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 to Midland High School, 1301 Eastlawn Drive.

Three other students, two girls ages 14 and 15, as well as a boy, 15, knew of the incident and could face charges for their involvement, Garner said. Two of the youths lied to police investigating the threat, then later came clean.

Garner said the boy facing the felony charge does have a criminal history, but not enough to be charged as an adult. The crime is punishable by up to four years in prison for adults, he said. If this were his first offense, the penalty could have been probation and court supervision, but due to his record the student could face residential treatment. Garner declined to divulge the boy's criminal record.

The school was closed the day the threat was called in due to bad weather.

A Michigan State Police bomb dog was called to the school and did not detect any hazards. Security also was increased at the school.

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## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### 3 teen runaways held in Ann Arbor

Girls from U.P. visited pal on way to Mexico

Tuesday, January 08, 2008

**BY ART AISNER**

**The Ann Arbor News**

Police said three teenage girls who ran away from their homes in the Upper Peninsula bound for Mexico in a stolen car were arrested while visiting friends in Ann Arbor on Monday afternoon.

The 14-year-old girls were awaiting their parents' arrival today at the Washtenaw County Juvenile Center, said Ann Arbor Police Detective Sgt. Jeff Connelly. Formal charges are pending.

The girls are accused of stealing the Ford Contour in Ishpeming early Monday to make the eight- to nine-hour trek to Ann Arbor, where they visited friends, Connelly said.

They told police they were on their way to Mexico.

Police believe someone bought them gasoline during the trip because they had limited funds, Connelly said. Once in Ann Arbor, the girls, daunted by heavy traffic, parked the car across from city hall and took a bus to an apartment complex where a friend lives.

One girl's mother, who lives in Ann Arbor, was notified that the girls ran away and anticipated the visit to the friend. She called police and the girls were arrested without incident.

Art Aisner can be reached at 734-994-6823 or [aaisner@annarbornews.com](mailto:aaisner@annarbornews.com).

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Article published Jan 8, 2008

Pratt sentenced to nearly five years

**Trace Christenson**

*The Enquirer*

Christopher Pratt was sentenced Monday to spend nearly five years in prison for the domestic assault against his girlfriend.

Pratt, 39, of Marshall was sentenced to a minimum of four years and eight months to a maximum of 15 years in prison.

He was convicted by a jury in December of domestic violence against his girlfriend, Norreen Parker, felonious assault for throwing a chair at her, destroying a telephone to prevent Parker from calling for help and unlawful imprisonment for preventing her from leaving the home they shared.

Police were called to their Fredonia Township home on June 24 and arrested Pratt later that day.

On Monday, wiping away tears, Pratt said he still loved Parker, 35.

"I am innocent and I still love Norreen Parker with all my heart," Pratt told Calhoun County Circuit Court Judge Stephen Miller as Parker walked out of the courtroom. "I am sorry for calling her a bitch, but I didn't throw away the ring (given to him by Parker); I still have it. I know the truth will come out, and I would do anything for her."

Later, Parker said she left the courtroom because "he was telling lies. I never want to hear that voice again."

Pratt testified during his trial in December that he never assaulted her but instead broke some furniture because he was angry that she falsely accused him of seeing another woman.

Pratt is a person of interest in the March 2004 disappearance of his then-fiance, Mary Marshall Lands, 39. He told police she left their Marshall home after an argument and she wasn't seen again. No one has been arrested in the case.

Pratt told Judge Miller that Parker had supported him but that the family of Mary Lands turned her against him.

Lands' parents, Clifford and Anita Marshall, attended the sentencing and the trial but said the case was not about the disappearance of their daughter.

"We are supporting Norreen," Anita Marshall said.

During the December trial, Parker testified Pratt was controlling and verbally and physically abusive to her during their 18-month relationship.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Buscher said the trial, which also included testimony from Pratt's former wife, showed Pratt has a history of abusive behavior.

"This did not happen in a vacuum. This has been an ongoing thing in Mr. Pratt's life when he had a relationship with women," Buscher said.

He described Parker as the face of domestic violence.

But Pratt's attorney, J. Thomas Schaeffer, said Parker manipulated the system to have Pratt charged and insisted the Lands case, even though his client has not been charged, hung over the case involving Parker and influenced investigators and prosecutors.

"With all due respect to the prosecutor, he has taken a domestic violence case and ratcheted it up to a 15-year felony," Schaeffer said.

He argued Pratt broke some furniture, but Parker was not injured and Pratt did not try to keep her from leaving, but rather wanted her out of the house.

"The sentence should reflect what was done by the defendant," he said.

*Trace Christenson can be reached at 966-0685 or [tchrist@battlecr.gannett.com](mailto:tchrist@battlecr.gannett.com).*

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## Husband was violent, say prosecutors in Oakland murder trial

January 7, 2008

By L.L. BRASIER

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Daniel Pittao was a violent man, who abused his first wife and murdered his second, prosecutors contended in opening statements today in Pittao's murder trial in Oakland County Circuit Court. His defense attorneys insisted, though, that there was no evidence tying him to Tamara Pittao's 1997 murder, and that the case against him was based on innuendo.

Assistant Oakland County prosecutor Gregory Townsend told the eight men and six women on the jury that Pittao had a long history of assaultive and abusive behavior, and had thrown his first wife down a stairwell when he learned she was pregnant. She survived, and they eventually divorced.

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In the months leading up to Tamara Pittao's death, Townsend said, Daniel Pittao threatened to kill her, angry that she was leaving him and living in her own apartment. She had a personal protection order against him at the time of her death.

"Tamara Pittao had no enemies, save one," Townsend said. "This defendant."

Pittao's attorney, Richard Convertino, said police were focused on his client from the beginning, despite a lack of physical evidence linking him to the crime scene.

"Daniel Pittao did not kill Tamara Pittao," he said. "We're not here to judge whether Daniel Pittao was a good or bad person. ... This is about a murder."

Noting that prosecutors can not produce hair, fingerprints or DNA tying his client to the murder, Convertino said the only "CSI" in the case is "character assassination, speculation and innuendo."

Pittao, who was living in Davisburg at the time of the killing, told police he was delivering resumes to businesses the day police say Tamara Pittao was killed in her Novi apartment, her throat slashed. Prosecutors say that alibi does not hold up.

Prosecutors did not charge Pittao until January 2006, when they say he made conflicting statements in a civil deposition in which he was seeking \$200,000 in proceeds from Tamara Pittao's life insurance policy.

The trial, expected to last two weeks, is before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren. If convicted, Pittao faces life in prison without parole.



Tuesday, January 8, 2008

**Pontiac**

## Man's trial under way in estranged wife's death

**Mike Martindale / The Detroit News**

**PONTIAC** -- An Oakland Circuit Court trial for a man charged with killing his estranged wife nearly 10 years ago in her Novi apartment began Monday with attorneys presenting different faces of Daniel J. Pittao to the jury.

The 48-year-old Canadian national was arrested in January 2007 and charged with open murder in the death of Tamara Pittao, 30, who was found suffocated with her throat slashed in her Novi apartment after she didn't arrive at her parents' Chicago area home for Thanksgiving in November 1997. She and Pittao were in the process of a divorce and had a 2-year-old daughter, who has lived for the past decade with her maternal grandparents.

Assistant Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney Gregory Townsend told the jury that Pittao's history of domestic violence, inconsistent statements and actions before and after Tamara's death all point directly to him as the killer.

Townsend said he has an eyewitness who will testify to seeing the Pittaos in his Jeep outside the apartment the afternoon she is believed to have been killed.

"Only one person had the motive to hurt or kill Tammy," said Townsend, pointing at Pittao seated in the courtroom.

The locked apartment showed no signs of forced entry, and an autopsy showed that Tamara, who was found fully clothed, was likely struck from behind by a blunt object.

Pittao's attorney, Richard Convertino, portrayed Pittao as a loving father with problems in two separate marriages, but insisted there is no physical evidence linking him to the murder. Both wives had accused him of domestic violence.

"What you have heard for the past 40 minutes was the best they have," Convertino said. "Dan Pittao did not kill Tammy Pittao. We're not here to judge whether he was a good or bad person. Even if you assume everything Mr. Townsend said, what does that get you? Does that get you to murder?"

The trial continues today in Judge Michael Warren Jr.'s courtroom.

*You can reach Mike Martindale at (248) 647-7226 or [mmartindale@detnews.com](mailto:mmartindale@detnews.com).*

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080108/METRO02/801080364>

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## DO IT!

### Workshop on abuse

January 8, 2008

LACASA, Livingston County's domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse advocacy agency, is conducting a two-part workshop on the effects of domestic violence.

- Part 1: Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Violence: Signs of abuse, safety planning, local resources. 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 or noon-1:30 p.m. Jan. 17.

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- Part 2: Domestic Violence and the Effect on Children: Understanding children's needs, family-safety planning. 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 22 or noon-1:30 p.m. Jan. 24.

All sessions at 2895 W. Grand River Ave., Howell.

The workshop is free, but registration is required. 866-522-2725.

*Angela Lopez, Free Press staff writer*

#### Find this article at:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080108/FEATURES08/801080324/1033>

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Published January 8, 2008  
[ From Lansing State Journal ]

## **Vickki Dozier: Benefit to aid women re-entering work force**

People News

Vickki Dozier  
Lansing State Journal

Jacobson's Alumni Association is sponsoring the "Hope Fashion Show and Boutique," to raise support for women, served by St. Vincent Catholic Charities Housing Support for Homeless Women, who are re-entering the work force.

The fashion show is at 1 p.m. Saturday, followed by a boutique sale until 5 p.m. The event will be held at St. Vincent Catholic Charities Children's Home Gymnasium, 2800 W. Willow St.

Admission is one gently used or new ladies coat, which will be donated to the women served by STVCC. In addition,

Jacobson's Alumni Association will donate 100 pieces of new fashion and a portion of the event's sales to those women served by STVCC who are re-entering the work force.

"It is important for the women re-entering the work force to feel confident, to

feel like a woman," said Julie Reynolds, community relations and marketing manager for St. Vincent Catholic Services. "This is a wonderful way to raise awareness of the homelessness issue facing women and children in our community and at the same time provide support to those in need."

Women attending the show may purchase better and designer fashions and accessories from New York, Canada and Italy for themselves, for up to 60 percent off retail prices. There'll be unique clothing not found in local shops, such as Tummy

Tuck Jeans by "Not Your Daughter's Jeans" as seen on "Oprah." Sizes range from 4 to 22. Jacobson's Alumni

Association accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover.

For more information, contact Reynolds at 323-4734, ext. 1202 or visit

[www.stvcc.org](http://www.stvcc.org).

## News

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### Area officials, victim help increase stalking awareness

By Audrey LaFave

POSTED: January 8, 2008

ESCANABA — January is stalking awareness month in Michigan and local officials would like the community to take notice of the issue.

Emily Jurmu, of the Delta County Alliance Against Violence and Abuse, said there needs to be a community-wide effort to stop domestic violence and stalking in Delta County.

"Stalking is a continuing issue and plays a large role in domestic violence," Jurmu said. "The more awareness there is the better off we're going to be."

Stalking can include sending unwanted letters or gifts, following or spying on the person, making unwanted phone calls, waiting outside school/work/home, leaving threatening messages, destroying property, threatening to harm children or commit suicide and leaving threatening notes on cars, among other things.

Jurmu said in her experience stalking often results after a person leaves a relationship.

"A lot of people think you leave a domestic violence situation and you're done," she said. "But that's not the case and that's where the shelter comes in because it is a safe place to be during that transition."

An example is the story of a local woman who was married for 15 years to a man who was verbally and physically abusive.

"When I left my ex, I went to the shelter with my two minor children," she said. "We stayed there for about two months before I got my own place. That's when the stalking started."

Her ex-husband, who lived in Manistique, would reportedly travel to Escanaba to follow her and videotape her at her home and other places.

"He would stand by the window trying to videotape me at night and try to record my conversations," she said. "A neighbor came out once and asked what he was doing and he ran away."

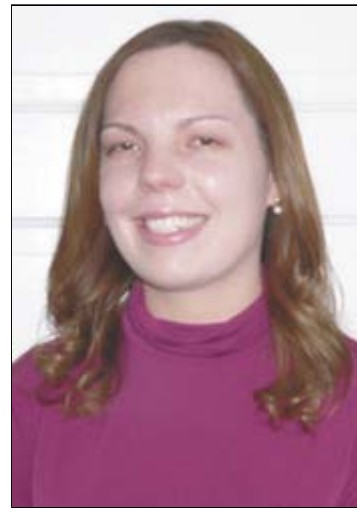
The woman said she never called the police on her ex because neighbors and other people noticed his behavior and called the police on him.

"When he finally got arrested, a neighbor of my sister had called the cops on him because he was laying on the ground videotaping me in my sister's yard," she said. "They confiscated binoculars, a video camera and I don't know how many tapes he had."

The woman credits the Alliance and the local police departments with getting her ex-husband to back off.

"The shelter was very supportive," she said. "They have a lot of knowledge for what they can do and how they can help victims."

#### Article Photos



Emily Jurmu

The woman's advice to people who are being stalked is to speak up.

"Don't be afraid to talk to someone," she said. "It can happen to anybody and there is help out there for women who are being stalked or men who are being stalked. They don't have to be victims."

Jurmu said that while the issue of stalking is often overlooked and rarely discussed, it is in fact a tool often utilized in a batterer's quest to maintain power and control.

"In 2007, the Michigan Women's Commission reported one in three women in domestic violence shelters are victims of stalking," she said.

Jurmu also wanted to remind the community that the Alliance Against Violence and Abuse is for all victims of sexual or domestic abuse, not just women.

"A lot of people think it doesn't happen to men, but it does," she said.

"We will help a man who has been hurt in any way we can. All of our services are available to everyone."

Anyone who is being stalked or abused can find local help by calling the Delta County Alliance Against Violence and Abuse 24-hour crisis line at (906) 789-1166, the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or by calling the police.

"It is a safety issue and often times you do need some law enforcement intervention to help you," said Jurmu.

"The number of stalkings that end up as homicides is just outrageous."

In fact, a recent study found that 76 percent of female homicide victims and 85 percent of attempted female homicide victims had been stalked by their intimate partner in the year prior to their death or assault.

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## Health care for all

Ballot plan would order universal insurance

### FLINT

#### THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Tuesday, January 08, 2008

By Shantell M. Kirkendoll

skirkendoll@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6366

FLINT - There are no firm ideas for paying for it, or concrete ways to run it, but a coalition says the time has come for guaranteeing health care coverage for Michigan residents.

The Health Care Security Campaign is expected to announce a ballot proposal for a "health care security plan" at a news conference today.

Genesee County residents have stepped up to provide taxpayer-supported coverage for low-income adults. It's the kind of safety net hoped for across the state.

"What intrigued me and pleased me is we're taking a proactive approach to health care," said Rep. Brenda Clark, D-Flint, who'll attend one of the planned multi-city conferences that are to be held in Detroit, Bay City, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

The measure to be rolled out today is intended to require state leaders to create a plan to provide comprehensive health care for Michigan residents.

What the campaign wants is coverage that continues even if people lose their jobs, get ill or divorce, and contains health care costs for businesses. About 1.1 million people in Michigan lack health insurance.

To get the proposal on the Nov. 4 ballot, the campaign must collect 380,000 signatures by July 1.

"This campaign is necessary, as politicians in both Lansing and Washington have failed for years to address the health care crisis," said John Freeman, chairman of the Healthcare for Michigan ballot committee.

"Michigan must take the initiative because too many families and businesses are suffering and we cannot wait any longer for Washington to act," he said.

Genesee County has the largest of the state's county-run health plans and is the only one with taxpayer support.

A reported 28,000 adults are members, which represents nearly half of the 55,000 Genesee County residents without insurance.

Over the years, the GHP has expanded coverage to include office visits, generic prescriptions, some same-day surgeries and physical therapy. Members make no more than about \$1,500 a month, or \$18,000 a year.

But what the campaign is pushing is coverage that is more than a Band-Aid, Clack said, and one that's

#### QUICK TAKE

What the ballot would say:

The state legislature shall pass laws to make sure that every Michigan resident has affordable and comprehensive health care coverage through a fair and cost-effective financial system. The Legislature is required to pass a plan that, through public and private measures, controls health care costs and provides for medically necessary preventive, primary, acute and chronic health care needs.

Source: Healthcare for Michigan Ballot Committee.

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effective during catastrophic events such as cancer or a heart attack.

The ballot proposal coalition is made up of a dozen organizations such as labor, faith groups, medical and civil rights organizations and health care groups.

The coalition says spiraling health costs threaten the survival of businesses and the nearly \$60 billion already spent on health care in Michigan could be spent more wisely, such as focusing on preventive care.

So far, it has not offered a funding source other than public and private solutions.

"The first move is to get it on the board and we'll work out the details," Clack said.

On the web: [www.healthcareformichigan.org](http://www.healthcareformichigan.org).

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## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Universal health care drive kicks off: Group wants state Legislature to provide coverage for all

Tuesday, January 08, 2008

BY STEPHANIE ESTERS

se@kalamazoogazette.com

388-8554

A group of area organizations and residents is joining a statewide effort to ask the state Legislature to overhaul the health-care system to provide coverage for every state resident.

The Healthcare for Michigan Ballot Committee planned to kick off its ballot initiative today at 12 press conferences throughout the state, including one from 9:30 to 10 a.m. at Free Clinic of Kalamazoo, 2918 Portage Road, Kalamazoo.

Expected at the local press conference were Janice Lakers, of Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community (ISAAC); the Rev. Jill McAllister, of People's Church; the Rev. Milton Wells, of Open Door Ministries; state Sen. Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek; Victoria Kovari, of Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good; and some Michigan residents who are unable to afford health insurance.

"It's a collection of interested individuals, organizations and faith-based groups (churches) who want to stimulate public conversation on the condition of public health care in Michigan," said Rick Johnson, a coalition member who is part of ISAAC, "and they are advocating an amendment to the Michigan state constitution, which calls for the Legislature to provide affordable, quality health care for everyone in Michigan."

Health care in Michigan costs between \$57 billion and \$63 billion each year, which translates into a little more than \$6,000 per resident, said Gary Benjamin, a staff attorney for Michigan Legal Services of Detroit.

"I can buy a Blue Cross policy for everyone in the state" with that money, said Benjamin, who is helping pass out petitions to collect signatures for the ballot initiative. "So there's something wrong with what we're doing to the funding structures."

To illustrate duplication in the health-care funding system, Benjamin said, he might tell someone that they pay for about seven health-care insurance policies: an employee plan; Medicaid and Medicare; worker's compensation medical coverage; auto insurance medical coverage; catastrophic auto claims; and home/residential liability coverage.

"There are a couple of places right here where money exists," Benjamin said. "I call it refinancing health care in Michigan, because we're the only country that finances health care the way we do. It's a mixed-up, mish-mosh-based mix."

#### ON THE WEB

For more information about the Michigan Universal Healthcare Access Network, one of the supporters of the Healthcare for Michigan Ballot Committee, visit [www.michuhcan.com](http://www.michuhcan.com).

## Granholm supports proposed health care amendment

January 8, 2008

By DAWSON BELL

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jennifer Granholm added her name Tuesday to the list of backers for a proposed constitutional amendment that would require the state to enact some form of universal health care for Michigan citizens.

The proposed amendment would require the state Legislature to provide “comprehensive and affordable” health care, sponsored by an array of labor unions, the AARP, and other civic and religious activists. Granholm said the proposed amendment is “a great idea,” one that would help Michigan manufacturers offset competitive advantages of companies based in countries with government health care plans.

### Advertisement

Her endorsement came the same day the group Health Care for Michigan launches the campaign with a series of news conferences around the state.

The campaign will need to collect signatures from more than 380,000 registered voters to put the issue on the November ballot.

### Find this article at:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/artikkel?Dato=20080108&Kategori=NEWS05&Lopenr=80108049&Ref=AR&Show=0>

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Detroit Free Press

January 8, 2007

## WAYNE COUNTY

### WOODHAVEN

### Food pantry to serve older adults

The city Parks and Recreation Department has created a food pantry for residents age 55 and older.

Eligible individuals may fill a bag of groceries — including canned goods, dry pastas and toiletries — between noon and 5 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at the Woodhaven Community Center, 23101 Hall.

The food pantry was launched with a \$500 donation by Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Odette's Odette Chiropractic Health Center in Brownstown Township to buy a storage cabinet. The pantry will have a six-month-long trial to assess the community need, said Kathy D'Angelo, city parks and recreation director.

"As the economy's getting worse around us, we decided to do something to help the seniors," she said Monday. "We brainstormed about what to do to make an impact. ... We're going to try to line up donors or businesses in the community willing to do food drives for us."

Today, D'Angelo's staff is

to pick up food collected by Bates Elementary School.

For information, call 734-675-4926 during business hours.